



UTAH  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

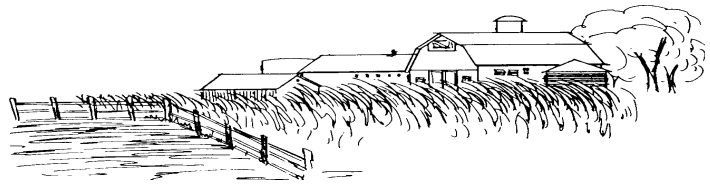
# News Release

P.O. Box 25007  
Salt Lake City, UT 84125-0007  
801-524-5003  
Web Page: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ut/>  
E-Mail: [nass-ut@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ut@nass.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Release No: 26-04      Date: June 24, 2004

Contact: Richard Kestle, State Statistician



---

## Utah Cherry Production Down

**Utah:** Utah's 2004 tart cherry production forecast is 23.0 million pounds, compared to 26.0 million pounds produced in 2003 and 3.0 million pounds in 2002. Although production is forecast to be down from 2003, favorable weather conditions have allowed for another good crop. Utah is forecasting sweet cherry production to be 1,700 tons, down 23 percent from 2003 but a significant increase over the 2002 crop of 400 tons. Poor pollination in Box Elder County contributed to the decrease in production from last year.

**United States:** Tart cherry production is forecast at 215 million pounds, 5 percent below 2003 production but more than 3 times the production of the weather-devastated crop in 2002. Michigan, the largest producing State, expects a crop of 145 million pounds, down 6 percent from 2003 but nearly 10 times as much as in 2002. In the Northwest, Michigan's largest producing region, a freeze in early May damaged buds. In general, the weather has been cold and was poor during pollination.

Sweet cherry production is forecast 276,550 tons, up 17 percent from 2003 and 52 percent above 2002. The Washington crop, at a record high production of 130,000 tons, is down 4 percent from the June 1 forecast but is 12 percent above 2003. Washington's cherry crop experienced unusually warm conditions during the spring, which contributed to a good bloom. Most growers are reporting crop sizes equal to or greater than a year ago. Rain in early June caused some crop loss due to splitting.